

is clear that some considerable weight is attached to the subject. While so much interest is taken by Government in the matter of Muzrai Institutions, it is too much to expect from them some help for the maintenance of the charities founded by worthy donors in the past, by way of allowing the current rate of interest on such endowments instead of the existing low rate?

Dewan.—We shall consider the subject carefully and issue needful orders.

REVENUE.

LAND REVENUE.

(Nos. 7 to 46.)

SUBJECT No. 7.

Increase of *potgi* to village officers.

Messrs. (1) M. Subbiah, Magadi Taluk and D. S. Hanumantha Rao, Devanahalli Taluk; (2) Ramappa and Gopalappa, Challakere Taluk and Gopalaiya, Holalkere Municipality; (3) Srikantaiya,alur Sub-Taluk; (4) Kesariah and Mallegowda, Chikmagalur Taluk and (5) Halppa, Channagiri Taluk, S. Seetharamaiya, Shimoga Taluk, Nadiy Bhaskara Rao and Akshman Rao, Sorab Taluk.

Mr. M. Subbiah.—Special increases have been given to all officials of Government in other departments while nothing has been done for the Shanbhogs and Patels. Their remuneration should be suitably increased if they are to work whole-heartedly.

Mr. S. Seetharamaiya.—It is admitted on all hands that the amount of remuneration paid to Patels and Shanbhogs is extremely low. Their *potgi* is scarcely sufficient to meet their ordinary wants and on our repeated representations for its increase, Government were pleased to say last year that they would favourably consider the matter. In the meantime, every other official in other departments of Government has been given an increase while these hard-worked officials are left severely alone. Village accounts will show that, under the present system of *potgi*, the Shanbhogs can hardly get on an average more than 8 or 10 rupees. The present rate was fixed many years ago when the cost of living was very cheap and the country was very prosperous. But now everything is changed and it is impossible for Shanbhogs to eke out a living with the amount of *potgi* they receive. This long standing grievance should be redressed and very early orders should be passed increasing the *potgi* of Shanbhogs and Patels.

Mr. D. S. Hanumantha Rao.—At the rate fixed at present, the Shanbhogs cannot get an adequate return for their services. *Potgi* is now computed on a graduated scale, the percentage being smaller as the amount of collection increases. If it is given on the percentage basis at all, it must be calculated on every hundred rupees collected irrespective of the aggregate amount of collection. These officers have to do all kinds of work. They are to answer for everything in the village. But they get very little for their work.

They have no other means of sustenance. Their lot must be improved by the benign Government. In these days of general stress, every other official in other departments is given some increase and yet nothing has been done to us. Early orders may be passed enhancing the *potgi*.

Dewan.—It is not possible to increase the percentage. Orders will issue regarding the assessment of *potgi* villagewar instead of firkawar and about increasing stationery allowance. The question of increasing the percentage of *potgi* will be considered later on.

Mr. C. Vasudeva Rao.—If *sadilvar* allowance is increased, that will go towards the cost of stationery and will not be available for augmenting the income of the Shanbhogs. Unless their *potgi* is increased, there can be no relief to them.

Mr. H. Krishna Sastri.—The work of Patels and Shanbhogs comprises too many details. They are responsible for village improvement work. They have to look after village sanitation, village statistics, village accounts, etc. They must be enabled to do their work with more earnestness and with little discontent. At present, they are a highly dissatisfied lot. Discontent is wholly prejudicial to their public duties, which are bound to suffer unless their grievances are redressed. Government saw that there was discontent among the officials elsewhere and promptly gave increased allowances to them. But nothing was done to this class of officials in the village. Some relief in the shape of increased *potgi* is urgently called for.

Mr. Malle Gowda.—*Potgi* forms the chief source of livelihood to Patels and Shanbhogs. But the income from this source at present is nothing and it does not go very far to meet the general stress prevailing in the country. It was with a view to meet such distress that the officials of other departments were given special allowances. But the condition of Shanbhogs and Patels has not been improved along with the other officials. It is impossible for us even to live from hand to mouth. Unless some thing is done to ameliorate our present condition, it is impossible for us to hold on any further. Such is our plight now.

Revenue Commissioner.—It is under contemplation to immediately set apart one lakh of rupees for the relief of Shanbhogs and Patels and to increase the *potgi* by about one per cent. The question of further increase will be considered later.

One Member.—The relief is too low. Whatever is given in the Bombay Presidency may be given here also. A fixed pay may be given to the Shanbhogs.

Revenue Commissioner.—It is impossible to allow fixed pay at this stage. Some relief will be given by Government as already stated in addition to an allowance for stationery expenses.

Mr. D. S. Hanumantha Rao.—There is an impression that Shanbhogs and Patels have *inams* granted to their ancestors and that therefore they are not entitled to any increased allowances. As a matter of fact, the *inamties* yield very little. Shanbhogs have very little time to attend to their own private work with the result that, except the *potgi*, they have no other means of living. It is therefore imperative that *potgi* should be increased.

Mr. Malali Venkataramaiya.—There are various ways of assessing the *potgi* in Bombay and other place. The system is not the same everywhere. If the *potgi* is increased, all the grievances will disappear.

Mr. H. Krishna Sastri.—The whole administration of the country begins with the work of Shanbhog and Patels. These officials should therefore be kept above want so as to be enabled to do earnest work.

Another Member.—Shanbhogs and Patels are a peaceful people and while they can organize themselves and embarrass the Government in various ways such as strikes, etc., they do not want to do so. They have elected to fight their battle by legitimate means and get their grievances redressed in a constitutional way. Their appeal should not be viewed with disfavour.

Mr. Purushotham Anandagiri Gosayi.—While the Shanbhog has other means of increasing his income, the Patel has for the most part none. He is the most responsible village officer and his *potgi* should be augmented in the first instance. If anything is to be done, let it be done for both the Shanbhogs and Patels and not to the Shanbhogs alone.

Mr. Srinivasiengar of Seringapatam.—These Shanbhogs remain in the same place for the whole length of their lives and have many means of living in the village. They are often a source of considerable trouble to the village population. A fixed pay should be given them and they must be made transferable from place to place. I do not see any use in enhancing their *potgi*, which will mean that they will yet be fixtures in the village.

Mr. S. Seetharamiah.—This is an important subject which comes up every year and Government are

also aware of the hardship of these important village officers. Let a committee of officials and non-officials be appointed to enquire into the grievances of Shanbhogs and Patels and let specific recommendations be invited from this committee. Government may then pass suitable orders early on these recommendations and the subject will then have been disposed of once for all. The matter should not be allowed to drag on as hitherto. Something should be done to improve the lot of these village officers.

Note.—The subject was noted for consideration.

SUBJECT No. 8.

Toties and Talaries.

Messrs. (1) Ibrahimkhan and Narasimhaiya, Sira Taluk; (2) Kenchappa, Holalkere Taluk; Basavannappa, Davangere Taluk and Viraiya, Hiriyur Taluk and (3) Naraharaiya, Nelamangala Taluk, and Chikka Gurova Reddi, Bangalore Taluk.

(1) Final orders have not been passed on the grant of *miras* to Toties and Talaries. Orders may be issued early.

(2) As the raiyats are not paying *miras* to Toties and Talaries regularly, their difficulties are enormous. Unless a fixed pay is given to them, no work can be got out of them.

(3) The burden of paying *miras* to Toties and Talaries should not be thrown on the raiyats who are hard pressed in these days. It is better that some salary is fixed for them.

The present day conditions do not allow the old system to be changed. People are already heavily burdened and it is not possible for them to pay more than what they are doing now. All collections are made by the efforts of Patels and Shanbhogs. Further, these Toties and Talaris are enjoying *Inamtis*. If it pleases Government, they may confirm the *inamtis* but our prayer is not to change the present system.

Dewan.—Orders have been issued on 15th October 1920.

SUBJECT No. 9.

Abolition of the Irrigation cess.

Messrs. (1) Mir Mahomed Sab, Tarikere Taluk; Hoskoppa Krishna Rao, Koppa Taluk; Honnaiya Heggade, Malnad Landholders' Association; Chennakesava Rao, Koppa Taluk and C. Srinivasa Rao, Kadur District Board; (2) N. Srinivasa Udapa, Nagar Taluk, Nadig Bhaskara Rao, Nadig Lakshmana Rao, Nadig Seetaramappa, Sorab Taluk and (3) B. Srinivasa Iyengar and R. Subba Rao, Anekal Taluk, Gubbiah, Anekal

Mr. Mir Mohammed Sab.—The imposition of the irrigation cess after re-survey has caused enormous difficulties to the poor. Government are aware of the difficulties of raising crops during these days of scanty rainfall. If Government can only guarantee crops, we will not have the slightest objection to pay the cess not only at $\frac{1}{2}$ anna but even at 2 annas per rupee. No sort of benefit is derived from this fund but still people are forced to pay all the same. If water is supplied during one year, there will be no supply for four years or more. Even the D. P. W., who are spending thousands of rupees are not able to supply us regularly with water. As such, nothing more can be expected of the ryots.